

inform the Congress and the incoming administration about where we are in dealing with our racial issues, our opportunities and our continuing difficulties, about what progress we have made in the last 8 years and what still needs to be done to build one America.

I advocated some things that will doubtless be somewhat controversial, but I have been working on them: improvements in the criminal justice system; restoring voting rights to people when they complete their sentences, so they don't have to get a Presidential pardon; a national election commission headed by Presidents Ford and Carter to look into why some Americans have so much difficulty voting and how we can ever avoid—always avoid having another election like the last one, with all the controversies that we had there; and new steps forward in closing the disparities in health and education and economic development.

But what I want to say to you is that building one America is like life. It's a journey, not a destination. And the main thing will always be whether we're still making the trip.

Did any of you see the jazz series on TV this week? It was fabulous, wasn't it? My favorite line in the whole thing—my favorite line was uttered by that great Washington, DC, native Duke Ellington. When he was asked, "What's your favorite jazz tune," he said, "The

one coming up." [Laughter] Well, believe me, that's what I believe about our country.

I see these young people, I see these volunteers, and it's been an honor for me to serve. It's been an honor for me to help make Washington stronger and better. But when somebody asks you what the best day is, think about these young folks and say, "The one coming up."

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:32 p.m. in the Building 46 Auditorium at the University of the District of Columbia. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Council Chair Linda Cropp, and Ward 3 Councilmember Kathy Patterson of Washington, DC; Alice Rivlin, chair, DC Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority; Chief Executive Officer Harris Wofford and former Chief Executive Officer Eli Segal, Corporation for National Service; Nancy Rubin, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Commission; and All-AmeriCorps Award winners Angela Campos, Mayor Cleveland L. Rippons of Cambridge, MD, and Carey Hartin. H.R. 3069, the Southeast Federal Center Public-Private Development Act of 2000, approved November 1, 2000, was assigned Public Law No. 106-407. The Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday proclamation of January 12 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Memorandum on Delegation of Authority Under Sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act

January 15, 2001

*Memorandum for the Attorney General*

*Subject:* Delegation of Authority Under Sections 212(f) and 215(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 212(f) and 215(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a)(1)), and in light of Proclamation 4865 of September 29, 1981, I hereby delegate to the Attorney General the authority to:

- (a) maintain custody, at any location she deems appropriate, and conduct any

screening she deems appropriate in her unreviewable discretion, of any undocumented person she has reason to believe is seeking to enter the United States and who is encountered in a vessel interdicted on the high seas through December 31, 2001; and,

- (b) any other appropriate actions with respect to such aliens permitted by law.

This memorandum is not intended to create, and should not be construed to create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, legally enforceable by any party against the United States,

its agencies or instrumentalities, officers, employees, or any other person, or to require any procedures to determine whether a person is a refugee.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum, which was not received for publication in the *Federal Register*.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Funding for Trade and Development Agency Activities With Respect to China *January 13, 2001*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I hereby transmit a report including my reasons for determining, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246), that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate the suspension on the obligation of funds for any new activities of the Trade and

Development Agency with respect to the People's Republic of China.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 16.

## Remarks on Presenting the Medal of Honor *January 16, 2001*

*The President.* Good morning, and please be seated. I would like to first thank Chaplain General Hicks for his invocation and welcome the distinguished delegation from the Pentagon who are here—Secretary Cohen, General Shelton, Deputy Secretary de Leon. I thank the Members of Congress who are here: Senator Dorgan, Senator Durbin, Representatives Buyer, King, Skelton, Weller, and Whitfield; former Representatives Lazio and McHale; members of the Smith and Roosevelt families.

In 1782 George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit. It was the first medal awarded by our Nation's Armed Forces. But soon it fell into oblivion, and for decades no new medals were established. It was thought that a medal was too much like a European aristocratic title, while to fight for one's country in America was simply doing your democratic duty.

So when the Medal of Honor was instituted during the Civil War, it was agreed it would be given only for gallantry, at the risk of one's life above and beyond the call of duty. That's an extraordinarily high standard, one that precious few ever meet. The Medal of Honor is our highest military decoration, and we are here today to honor two American heroes who met that mark.

The first is Andrew Jackson Smith, United States Army. Then Corporal Smith served as a part of the 55th Massachusetts Voluntary Infantry, a black regiment that fought in the Civil War. In late 1864, they were part of a Union effort to cut off the Savannah-Charleston railroad link and keep Confederate forces from interfering with Sherman's march to the sea.

On November 30th, the 55th was one of several units that tried to take a 25-foot rise called Honey Hill, close to Boyd's Landing in South